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escape. This was done after having once retreated to the nest, and left it again upon a new alarm, when she run out upon a limb as far as she could, and jumped to the ground, a distance of full four feet, the young still adhering to her.

I did not, as I should have done, examine the internal arrangement of the nest. If she had taken possession of an abandoned bird's nest, she had completed the structure by adding to it till the top presented a full convex form.

THE FLORA OF PALESTINE AND SYRIA.

BY REV. GEORGE E. POST.

PALESTINE and Syria embrace four distinct botanical regions:

I. The sea-coast plain and lower slopes of the hills, with the deeper valleys, which run far into the heart of Lebanon and the hill country of Galilee. The climate of this region is subtropical, and fosters the development of the banana, the palm, the sugar-cane and the orange. In this region frost is almost unknown, snow is quite rare, being seen only once in ten or fifteen years, and the hot sun of summer pouring on a soil made humid by irrigations, develops a luxuriant vegetable life.

II. The mountain sides, from 1000 to 4000 feet above the sea, with the valley of Cœle Syria, and the plain of the Orontes. Here the flora changes. The palm will no longer flourish. The banana refuses to fruit. The orange and the lemon cease to be productive, and their place is taken by the oak and the willow, and the pine and the maple. The olive and the mulberry are equally productive in this and the foregoing region, but in this form almost the only orchards, while on the plain they share the attention of the farmer with the before mentioned trees. In this region wheat and barley flourish, and the vine attains the most perfect development. The herbaceous flora of these two regions is similar in type, except that as we rise on the mountain sides the Tetragontheca and Stachys, and Squill and Pancratium of the plains begin to yield to the thorny mountain species of Astragalus, and Tragacanth, and Eupigium, and the aromatic Origanums and Teucriums.

III. A third region comprises a small part of Cœle Syria, near the head waters of the Litany and Orontes, with the plain east of Damascus and Hums. The soil of this region is thin, being fit only for the production of grasses and thorny herbs, the scanty pasture of the Arab's flocks and herds. Here grow *Centaurea dumulosa*, and *Delphinium anthoroides*, and many Astragali and other Leguminosæ, while not a solitary tree, or even shrub, enlivens the dreary landscape. It is the type of those great waterless plains, which, for a short space, interrupted by the fertile district of Mesopotamia, extend eastward through Persia to the great desert of Cobi.

IV. The fourth of these regions is from the height of 4000 feet on Lebanon and Hermon, to their snow clad summits. Here the scanty remains of their once extensive forests of cedar and oak, and pine, end at an elevation of 6000 feet above the sea, and for the remaining 4000 feet of naked rock, we have left such treelets as the Cotoneaster, and *Prunus prostratas*, and *Daphne olœoides*, while the herbaceous flora is represented in the lower regions by *Astragalus lanatus*, *Alyssum montanum*, and *Ranunculus demissus* and *Viola ebracteolata*, and higher up by hemispherical bogs of a species of *Astragalus*, *Onobrychys tragacanthus* and *Acantholimon Libanoticum*, while on the extreme summit of Lebanon we find *Ucia canescens*, and of Hermon, *Pyrethrum densum*.

A fifth region might be enumerated, viz., the plain about Jericho, in which, owing to the depth of its surface below the sea, about 1300 feet, and the reflected glare of the sun from the mountains and surface of the Dead Sea, the heat mounts to equatorial degrees, and a flora is found resembling that of Lower India. More than twenty species are found here and around Engedi, which are not found again until we cross the Himalayas.

Thus it will be seen, that while on the summit of Lebanon there is a plant, *Oxygia reniformis*, belonging to the Arctic flora, in the valley of the Dead Sea we have representatives of the vegetation of the torrid zone, and this in the midst of a region with a temperate climate, by a special arrangement, seemingly designed to extend the range of human thought and observation within limits almost microcosmical. For while on any high mountain in the tropics we may have the near conjunction of these diverse forms of vegetable life thus answering the ends of variety and comparison, yet the general surface of the country in such cases would be torrid, and hence ill-adapted to the development of a hardy independent race, such as inhabited the mountains of Palestine and Syria. In the Holy Land, however, the end is gained by sinking a small section down to a tropical level, leaving the rest of the country more favorably situated for the support of vigorous life, and the development of individuality of national character.

A single observation more is in place here. It is that in Syria all plants necessary to life, or conducive to health, are either indigenous or flourish under cultivation in the open air, and that the indigenous materia medica supplies types of all the leading groups of remedies used in the healing art. This statement is illustrated by the fact that in the gardens of Syria grow the potato, bean in all its varieties, Indian corn, egg-plant, squash, pumpkin, artichoke, cucumber, onion, tomato, turnip, cabbage, cauliflower, spinach, carrot, beet, and many other vegetables, and the lemon, orange, citron, pomegranate, apricot, plum (in all varieties), peach, apple, cherry, blackberry, mulberry, banana, fig, date, grape, and other kinds of fruit; the walnut, pistachio, filbert, almond and other nuts; the squill, castor oil plant, elaterium, scammony, colocynth, salep, acacia, galls, poppy, *Conium maculatum*, aloe, various Euphorbias, madder and many other medicinal and economical plants.

THE FAUNA OF MONTANA TERRITORY.

BY J. G. COOPER, M. D.

(Concluded from page 84.)

III. REPTILES.

Horned Toad (*Tapaya Douglassii* Gir.). A single specimen was obtained at Fort Benton. Though found on the Columbia Plains this species does not seem to cross the mountains at this point, but probably does so by the head of Snake River.

Rattlesnake (*Crotalus confluentus* Say, possibly also *C. Lucifer* B. and G.). I saw but two rattlesnakes in the Rocky Mountains, which were on a prairie along Hell Gate River. Expecting to find more I did not preserve them, but as specimens were probably obtained by Lieut. Mullan, I mention the localities of this and other reptiles which I did not preserve. All kinds were very scarce in the mountains, and this, which is so abundant along the Platte, is rather rare near Fort Benton. I mention this as the species seen on the west slope, because the Bitterroot Mountains are a far greater obstacle to the migration of the *C. Lucifer* eastward, than the main divide is to that of this, and I killed some of *C. confluentus*, probably, as high as 5000 feet above the sea on the east slope.

Pine Snake (*Pituophis*). I also got a Pine Snake at Fort Benton.

Green Racer (*Boscanion vetustus* B. and G., or *B. flaviventris?*). I saw one dead specimen of this snake along Hell Gate River in August.

Wandering Gartersnake (*Eutainia vagrans* B. and G.). Rather common along Hell Gate and Bitterroot River.